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Vol.40 #457 Nov. 2021

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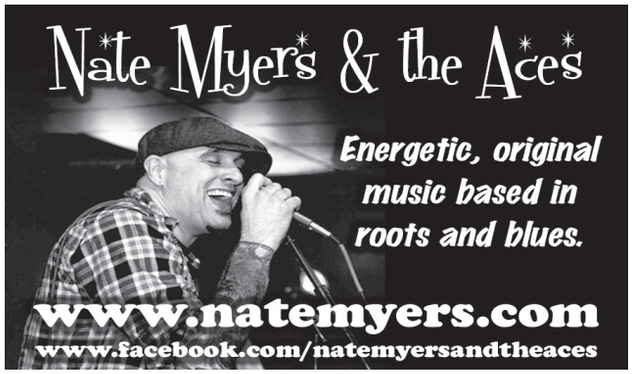

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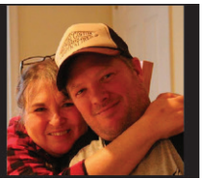
Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll



40 years of PA Musician Magazine!! It's hard to believe that this little paper, that was started to earn some Christmas money for the kids, has been around that long. While I have only been at the helm for a short 3 years, the paper has been part of my life ever since I can remember. The early days of figuring out how to make it all work were a monthly struggle for the Noll family. We always knew when it was deadline time, to fly straight and be quiet or you could very easily get "the belt" I've seen typewriters take flight out the window, Engines blown, transmissions fried, Macintoshes that bombed out and just about every other obstacle thrown at my parents. No matter the obstacle the team of Whitey and Robin made it happen month after month, building the paper into what it is today

Whitey used to say " you have to be around 5 years before you're considered a successful paper". After 5 years that turned to 10, then 15 and so on. One thing is for sure, while they never got rich owning the paper they did make a family in the central PA music scene. The friendships gained over the years is what has kept the paper alive. While other papers would show up and be the next "Big thing" none ever seemed to last and have all slipped by the wayside while the PA Musician train has just kept rolling on. The two big constant things in the Noll house were music and God. As a family business we have all helped out at one point or another.

In the early days when you got your license it meant that you got updated to delivery personnel. I got my license the week I turned 16 and was out delivering a week later. Handed the keys of the big Dodge Van and told to get this paper to Danville by 8am or else! No fear, I was up to the task as I had spent the last few years riding along to the press to pick up the paper with Dad. Then we would head home and I would spend the next couple days driving around with Mom to deliver her route. Back then you didn't upload the files, we had to take the big sheets of physical paper with all the photos and text carefully waxed and pasted on delicate paper, up to the printer and then wait what seemed like an eternity until they started rolling off the press. I miss those days but not really haha. Now we just upload PDF's then head down and pick them up the next day.

Technology is a great thing but it can also cause great headaches as each month there is always a chance your computer will go on the fritz (Mom this month), Internet connection down day of deadline (me last month), lost all your pics on your hard drive (Rachel every other month). While its a great resource it is something that when relied on can really ruin you day.

The thank you list is off the chart and would be impossible to list them all. Mike Staub, was a big supporter in the beginning and helped Mom and Dad with financing and mental support. John Harris or Harry as I call him, was always helping us along the way. While he has as reputation for being a hard ass in the local scene, somehow Dad broke through that and we have always just considered him family around our house. Keith Hummel, the ultimate sound man, has been with us since almost day one and still gets angry if I don't bring him his papers in a timely manner. I have learned a lot from Keith as I was always the free help for the day when he would do an event for us. The First thing is don't touch anything unless I specifically tell you! Listening and taking specific directions helped me down the road when it came time to get a "real job". Always pay attention to what is happening on stage and at the sound booth or your ass would hear about it. Jim Price "THE PROFESSOR" what can you say about Jim. He is an encyclopedia of music and I'm not sure if there is many people out there that have spent as much time as Jim has in front of a stage supporting local music. Not to mention the time he has spent writing and delivering papers for the PA Musician Magazine. One thing to remember is the staff writers are volunteers. They don't do it for the money they do it for the love of local music. Eric Hoffman who many may not know but he is the caretaker of all things PA Musician and keeps an archive of all the old issues safe and sound locked away in a secret mountain vault. He is missing a few very rare issues but we have faith that one day his super human abilities will locate them all. Meredith Kaminek has shot more local musicians, with her camera, for our cover then maybe anyone else. Chris Rider, our newest writer, who took on the task after a short conversation. Little did he know what he was getting into lol. After seeing a couple photos I knew he would be great for the paper. Watching his photography skills take off the last couple years has been amazing. Sterling Koch who just likes what we do, so he volunteers his time to deliver papers for us each month. To all the people who have helped deliver papers over the years and still do to this day. It takes an army, or family as we like to call it, to keep this train fueled and rolling. I'm sure I missed a ton of people and I'll let mom add her list here: THANK YOU to each and everyone who has picked up an issue and passed it on, THANK YOU to all the many advertisers who grabbed onto the vision of uniting the music community by pooling our resources and most of all I want to THANK GOD who always gave me the strength and wisdome and grace and mercy to carry on, and press on and live life to the fullest and embrace everyone we meet with love and acceptance and all his traveling mercies throughout the years. THANK YOU!!!

Speaking of Mom aka Robin Noll, she is the PA Musician Magazine. 40 years and she has worked on every issue! That is pretty amazing right there. Congrats Mom for hitting all those deadlines, in this job there is no back up if your sick you can't call off you just have to show up and get things done. She is an amazing woman and the best damn layout person I know. Every month I wonder how will she fit it all in but she does. One day I hope to posses all her skills but those are big shoes to fill. Special shout

out to the face of PA Musician my little sister who is a bouncing ball of energy and is sure to make you smile on stage or off. I love you Rachel and all you do for the paper month after month after month. I have asked some crazy things of her and she always makes it happen. So there you have it 40 years strong and if I can make it to 5 years of running the paper then maybe I can consider my stint a success. Oh wait maybe its 10 years or 15 hard to say but I can't wait to find out.

Speaking of Anniversaries we would like to extend a big Happy 10th Anniversary to Chris DellaPorta at Woodshed Guitar Works. Chris who started out over at the infamous Triple R Guitars with Randy Robertson. Decided in 2011, that he would venture out on his own and opened his shop up in downtown Carlisle. The Woodshed Guitar Works is the go to place for all your guitar repairs and needs. While he may not have hundreds of guitars for sale, he does keep a decent amount of inventory on hand but mostly he focuses on repairs. Chris has become the area's number one guy to give your trusted axe the love it needs after long nights of sweat and beer spilled on it. I have seen some crusty old guitars in there, that he puts his magic to and they come out looking amazing. My beloved Gibson SG has never left my possession for more then a couple riffs by good friends. It took me awhile to bring it down to Chris and I felt like I left half of my heart in his shop when I walked out the door. However I knew it was in good hands and he gave it the love it needed to keep her looking good for the next twenty years. So if you're in the Carlisle area stop in and say Hi to Chris maybe have a shot in the old Randy Tradition or check out what he has on the bench. He is sure to be able to help you out with all your repair needs. Congrats Chris on 10 years of Woodshed can't wait to see what the next 10 bring.

That's it for this month check us out on facebook or on the web at pamusician.net. Help me make it to 5 years by advertising its super easy. I'd say easier then making brownies which is super easy trust me on that. Although I still have not mastered Mom aka's Robin's skill at making the best brownies in the world. One day I will figure it out, must be all the love she puts in everything she does. Call or text 717-636-4203 or email joshnoll@pamusician.net Thanks peace out.

Mike Staub showing Robin how it's done

Photo of Chris DellaPorta

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Interesting that Josh is in the middle at the top of this family photo before he took over. CONGRATS JOSH! photo by Jeremy Craig

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

40 YEARS! It's hard to believe this magazine has been in existence for 4 Decades. I know for a fact we've had children of musicians grace our pages, and even a few grandkids! We would never be, without all of our advertisers, and all of their support. Some months have been way easier than others. I am 43 years old to say that this magazine has been a HUGE part of my life is an extreme understatement. I couldn't imagine how different my life would be without the PA Musician Magazine then and now. I know I had my qualms when Josh first took over the helm of the magazine, but I can't imagine how boring my life would be without it. Josh is completely amazing. In pure Dad fashion, when he puts his mind to something and has an idea, he doesn't stop until the idea is completed to the best of his ability. If you would've seen the cover shot of Crazy John Kerecz this month before Josh's creative eye took over, you would know how truly amazing he is! Thanks Josh for keeping Dad's legacy alive and thanks so much to all of the bands and businesses that continue to support us! It truly is a group/family effort!

Rocktober definitely didn't disappoint. Even though it was a very busy month, I still managed to squeeze in a few bands. One super special band was my own. That's right folks, I finally took the stage with my Dad's trusty ukulele and my friend Matt Bynum, and my son Zack, even sang Dad's original song, "Questions". Dad would've been so proud, I know I was! We called ourselves Rachel Rocks's Family Fun Band, and we definitely had fun! Our gig was at the Millerstown Fall Fest in support of the local Millerstown Swimming Pool. My good friend Mary Kissinger asked me to play, and with 2 months to spare we started practicing super hard, and we managed to learn 8 songs. Kudos to all bands for knowing

Matt Bynum & Rachel Rocks photo by Mason

hours worth of music. I have such a greater appreciation for every note you play and every lyric you sing. Matt has the patience of a saint and helped me not only learn how to play but also encouraged me enough that I even sang, "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars, all by myself to end our official set. Special Thanks to Holly Bynum for putting up with all the practicing! We are super thankful to all of our friends and family that came to our show. It was awesome to be surrounded by everyone that loves and supports us! During "Count on Me" a bunch of my friends even stormed the stage for one big selfie (paybacks for all of my selfies at their shows!) It was so awesome and super sweet! Derek Henry came to our show and when we were trying to fill space at the end, Matt sang a few solo songs, and then Derek even got up to play the Pixies for me! It was overall a great day! I could feel the love from everyone! Word on the street is that we will be playing the Spring Sip n' Dip on May 7th, but that is yet to be determined. If anyone out there needs an opener, or like 45 minutes of entertainment, let us know, we'd love to bring our show to your town! Kris, my hubby, recorded the whole show and it can be found on YouTube for all of your viewing pleasure.

We had such a blast playing music, that we all loaded up and went to listen to music! We headed to the new Lovedrafts location on the Carlisle Pike. They have an awesome set up with a nice high stage with a decent sized dance floor, but yet still plenty of area for tables for the people who like to sit back and enjoy a show. When we got there VoidHidden was on stage. I haven't seen these guys for so long, but they are always fun to watch. They all have a fantastic stage presence and have plenty of long hair flying in every direction! Their originals are awesome and definitely worth a listen. You can check them out online or at their next show! Up next was Observe the 93rd. It was awesome to see them playing at a new venue to a full house! Observe the 93rd has recently released a new video for their song "TRL". It's an awesome feel-good kind of video and well worth checking out! OT93 has been pushing harder than ever to get songs recorded and released. It's awesome watching them grow as a band, they are like my kids, I first saw them at a Battle of the Bands at the Chameleon and look at them now! I'm one proud fan! Every show is a blast and gets me dancing like a maniac! (No surprise there.) Check out their music and make plans to make it to their next show by checking out their ad in this issue or by visiting their website, www.observethe93rd.com.

Zack & Rachel

The night wasn't over quite yet! Johnny Joe's was right down the street and the Suicide Puppets were on the stage, so I zoomed over there for their last few songs. I was a little sad that I didn't see more of their show. There is nothing like a Suicide Puppets show, or rather "experience". Suicide Puppets go above and beyond to make every show a night you won't forget! The Suicide Puppets just got off of their tour with Soulfly, and it was awesome watching their tour experience through pictures on Facebook. To get the opportunity to play with a band like Soulfly was awesome enough, but to play in so many new venues and make so many more fans truly made it an unforgettable experience! It was definitely an action-packed day, but finally it was time to call it a night!

The following weekend started with a trip to Hollywood Casino in Grantville for Stonewood. I am so happy that Hollywood has opened their doors to some new bands. I had to go to Mason's football game, so I got there in time for the last set, and I was thrilled to see the dance floor packed! Shannon does such an amazing job at interacting with the fans. Even at Hollywood she still came off

continued on next page...

Giving me a taste of what I do to them on stage

Dead at XL Live & Crowd pic

Stonewood at Hollywood Casino

Void Hidden at Lovedrafts

The Famous at Carlisle Moose

The Big Fat Meanies Paramore at XL Live

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Photos on this page by RACHEL ROCKS!

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the stage and danced and sang with her fans. She can easily do that with confidence when she knows her band has her back! I know for sure Stonewood made some new fans that night! You can check out Stonewood's ad in this issue to make plans for your next night out on the town! Just make sure and wear your dancing shoes!

My next night out was to another new venue for me, The Carlisle Moose, for The Famous. I have a Moose Membership that I barely use, but I might have to start using it a bit more. The Carlisle Moose is a huge venue! You wouldn't think it was looking at it from the street, but it has an excellent sized dance floor, plenty of tables, and a nice big bar to sit at. Not to mention The Moose has delicious and super cheap food! I had some quesadillas and fries that were delicious! I hadn't seen The Famous since pre-covid, so it was awesome to finally have a rocking night with them and a few of my friends. Joey and Shelby can cover so many awesome songs and their harmonies are just awesome! Again, I have such a greater appreciation of how hard that is to figure out and to perfect, like they do! It felt so good to be on the dance floor dancing the night away with friends! I'm so glad to see full bands again! You never realize how truly awesome something is until it's taken away for a little while.

To finish off the night I headed back to Johnny Joe's, this time for the Colt Wilbur Band. It was pretty packed, but luckily there was still room to squeeze in for their show. All of the guys in the Colt Wilbur Band are amazing musicians and they are always having so much fun on the stage! I heard my good friend Shannon Bobb opened the show. I'm bummed I missed his set, hopefully I'll catch him next time. It's awesome to see and hear how the Colt Wilbur Band supports other local musicians. During the show they also brought Colt's cousin Nick Minahan, up on stage for a couple songs. Nick has been making a name for himself, playing solo shows throughout the area. The Colt Wilbur Band play so many country classics that not too many bands in our area take the time to play. It's definitely easy to keep the dance floor full when the crowd loves every song!

The next weekend started with one of the most anticipated shows of the year, the DEAD! Show at XL Live! It was such a bummer to miss this show last year because of Covid. We were all ready to have an awesome night, some of us even planned for a couple days of recovery afterwards. It was a night packed full of tribute bands. It all started with Enema (Blink 182). I missed them this night, but I have heard them play before. I never realized I loved so many Blink 182 songs. Enema does a great job at pulling off every one, and reminding me why I love Blink 182 so much! The next band was the Big Fat Meanies playing some Paramore. Hearing their brass section play the Paramore songs was super awesome! The only local band I know that can pull off the full brass section is Into the Spin. It is very rare, but I wish you heard more brass, even if it's just a saxophone! Then you had The Worst (it's not what I thought, that's just their name) (Limp Bizkit) tribute band. I don't know how many hidden talents Todd Williams has, but not only is he an awesome tattoo artist at Laser Fang Tattoo Emporium Extrordinorium within Rock Mill, but he's also a ukulele player, which I recently found out, and now I see him on stage as the front man of this band! I guess these guys just started playing together. They completely caught me by surprise. Next up was Old School Hollywood (System of a Down). It was super cool to see my good friend, Trevor back behind the mic, that guy definitely needs to be in a band! So much super cool talent. Not to mention seeing Tyler back on bass, supported with Dylan on the drums. Those two have some crazy cool chemistry. Last, but not least, DEAD! (My Chemical Romance). The crowd intensifies and just goes crazy for the entire show! So much energy everywhere! So much dancing and craziness. DEAD! Puts Derek's stage presence at a whole new level, I'm sure it helps that he's able to put the guitar down and just let loose. It's hard to believe that these 6 guys only get together and play one show a year. We have so many talented musicians in our area. We are truly spoiled. We even saw the one and only Logan Summey, come out from behind the drum kit and play bass! It was such an awesome night of music and a great time with friends. And yes, I'm very grateful that I had nothing going on the rest of the weekend.

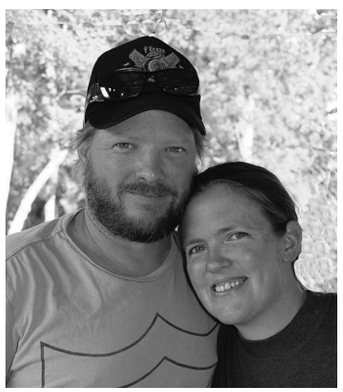
The final band of the month for me was Road Case at Johnny Joe's. It had been entirely too long since I saw these guys. We had a crazy night planned, our night started at Kim's Krypt in Spring Grove. If you are one of those weird people that love going to scary things, I suggest Kim's Krypt over any other Haunted Attracation in the midstate. I was absolutely terrified!! When I was first driving on our way to Johnny Joe's I thought I was going to have to let Matt drive because I kept closing my eyes thinking something scary was going to jump out of the corn fields at me! Luckily, we made it without any issues to Johnny Joe's in time to hear Road Case's full show. We are bummed we missed South Mountain Social, Jackie Cassatt's new project, but I hope to catch them soon, I heard they were fantastic! Road Case rocked the stage as usual. Imelda and I got in another fitbit step race which always makes the dancing a little extra crazy, but so much fun. I was beating her for a little while, but in the end, she beat me by like 300 steps! That woman is crazy and hard to keep up with! I was exhausted. But yet again, another night with an awesome band and even more awesome friends!

I could write it a zillion times and it still wouldn't be enough.. I'm truly THANKFUL for all of my friends I have made along the way, going out and doing what I love. October technically marked my 15th year as Rachel "Rocks". In 15 years I have met so many amazing people. People often say I bring the party when I show up, but trust me when I say the party is already there! My good friend Linda Kyle posted on Facebook the other day, "It's not just music. It's family. It's how people feel alive. It's their safe haven, where they go to escape the world, even for a little while. Music is so much more than people realize. The family that is created by the people that go out and support live music is a strong one! I love all of you so stinkin much!

My back story for those that don't know it. How I became "Rachel Rocks".. I always wanted a huge family, lots of kids! After losing a brother at a young age I knew that your babies are precious. After years of trying, we finally got pregnant and had Zack, after more years of struggling and 3 miscarriages, along came Mason our rainbow baby and true miracle! His whole pregnancy was a terrifying nightmare. When he was born I couldn't recover, I was an emotional mess, post-partum depression is so real. Kris, my hubby, and Mom got together and came up with a plan to get me out of the house, I was a stay at home Mom, and never went anywhere or did anything except care for my babies. Mom said she could really use someone to cover live music in our area, and Rachel Rocks was born. I went out to see Steel at Angie's in Highspire, and I haven't stopped since. Music definitely brought me back to life! The amazing friendships I've formed and the people I've met have just been a super awesome bonus! I had so many lectures from Dad, I don't think he ever liked the idea of his baby girl going out to clubs alone, but thanks to the bonds and the music family he formed with so many people going "out and about" for so many years, I was never truly alone. So many of the people he met, and the family he created were there waiting for me with open arms. Oh my, the stories I've heard! So THANK YOU all my wonderful family! For helping me be alive! For helping me be the outgoing crazy person I am. I look forward to every night out and about, and there are always more seats at our table. So, if you ever see me out and about, know that you're not alone, just pull up a chair and join in the fun!

Ok, that's enough mushy stuff! November is bringing a lot of awesome bands to the area. Welcome back to Reverb in Reading! I'm hoping to get back down to the Union House soon too! Tomorrow I'm hopefully heading to the Racehorse for a Zombie Apocalypse with Ten Ton Stone! Music is everywhere!!! HMAC has some awesome shows, XL Live of course is bringing all kinds of entertainment with the help of Harrisburg University. Music, Music Everywhere!! Get out there and support it! And thank you for reading this article and for supporting us!!! Want me to come see you… ADVERTISE!!! 717-636-4203. Check us out online, www.pamusician.net. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

Josh, our fearless leader with Rachel... We do need Ad dollars to keep the PA Musician Magazine going. A business card is just $30 per month. Call or text Josh today at 717.636.4203 THANK YOU!!



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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Last month, began with the return of The Menzingers to their hometown of Philadelphia at the Ardmore Music Hall on Oct 9. The band originally hails from Scranton but has made Philadelphia their home due to their overwhelming success. The Menzingers are currently on the road for 4 months, starting at Lancaster's Tellus360 and will finish at Harrisburg's HMAC on Dec 18. To date, the punk rock band has sold-out 19 of their 35 tour dates. Mechanicsburg band, Steel, also returned with a great show at the Racehorse Tavern in Thomasville, PA on Oct 15. Another great local show took place on Oct 17 at the home of Tuck Lentz and Wendi Schieb in Fort Hunter. Titled "Harrisburg Hootenanny," the concert showcased well known artists Dan Kibler & Ron Lutz (El Kabong), Amy Simpson, Tony Ryder, Bryce Connor & Tommy Kristich (The Jellybricks), Tony Melch and Donna Jean Foster. Tuck & Wendi held two other concerts this summer including Brett Alexander (The Badlees) and Colebrook Road.

Stage On Herr of Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center held a great show on Oct 19 featuring four punk rock bands. Teenage Bottlerocket of Wyoming was the headliner and were fantastic playing their "leather jacket punk, Ramones-core" style of music. Their set lasted a little over an hour but consisted of 19 great fast songs. TBR went on to play Baltimore's Ottobar the following night and then Philadelphia's Silk City the next. Opening band, Broadway Calls, were a nice surprise and very good, reminiscent of Blink-182. Teenage Bottlerock is a must for fans of the Ramones, the band began in 2000 and has released 8 studio albums.

NATIONAL NEWS: Judas Priest has been forced to postpone the remaining dates on its U.S. tour because guitarist Richie Faulkner has "major medical heart condition issues which have landed him in hospital." Vocalist Rob Halford stated the good news that "our Falcon is stable and resting after undergoing extensive heart surgery." Judas Priest announced, "As soon as we have any updates from his doctors on when we can reschedule the dates we will of course announce them – tickets will be valid." The band's 50th anniversary trek, dubbed "The 50 Heavy Metal Years Tour," had already been pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Peter Hook & the Light have announced "Joy Division: A Celebration," a 26-date North American tour set for summer 2022 that will see the band performing both Joy Division albums, 1979's Unknown Pleasures and 1980's Closer in full, with an opening set of New Order material. Show dates include: Silver Spring, MD Fillmore (8/25) and Philadelphia's Union Transfer (8/26).

Paul McCartney will induct Foo Fighters into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during its annual ceremony, set for Cleveland on Oct. 30. Taylor Swift will induct songwriter Carole King, and also perform some of her music, along with Jennifer Hudson. Angela Bassett, who portrayed Tina Turner in the movie "What's Love Got to Do With It?", will induct the singer. Another actor, Drew Barrymore, has been enlisted to induct the Go-Go's. Other inductees this year include Jay-Z, Todd Rundgren, Kraftwerk, Charlie Patton, Gil Scott-Heron, LL Cool J, Billy Preston and Randy Rhoads.

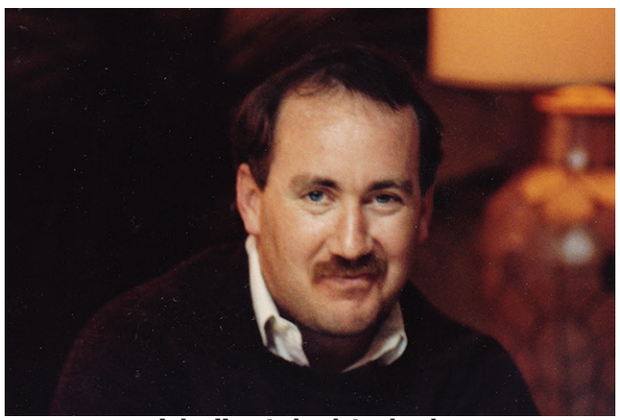
The one and only Rolling Stones have announced an additional stop on their "No Filter" 2021 tour, with the final stop on the calendar right now coming to Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 23. The show at Hard Rock Live will be The Rolling Stones' most intimate show in more than

continued on next page...

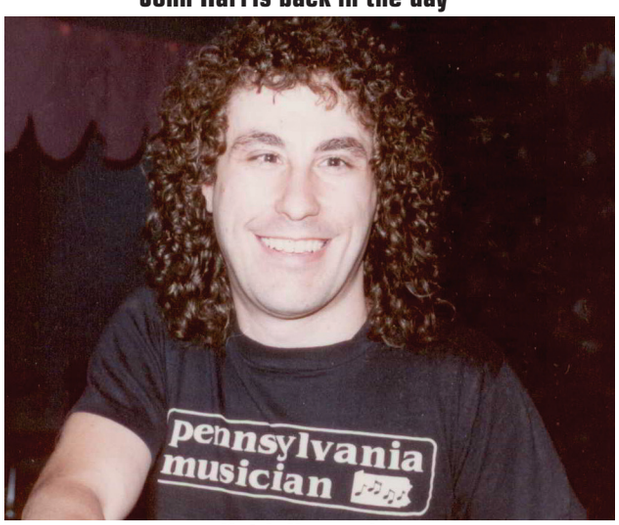
The Menzingers *photo by Eric*

Steel *photo by Eric*

Hooters cover by Becky Townsend



John Harris back in the day



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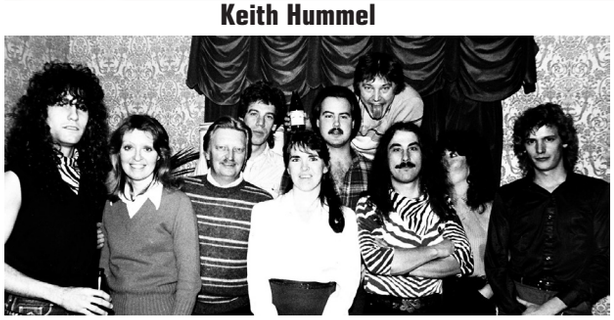

PA Musician Staff Meeting at The Silo

a decade. Hard Rock stated, "This will be an incredibly special evening at our 6,500 seat Hard Rock Live venue." According to the Stones database since 1981, the group has grossed over $2.2 billion from 21.8 million sold tickets at 563 concerts.

Coldplay return to the road – for the "Music Of The Spheres World Tour," the band will play between three and six stadium shows every month from March to August, before closing the announced run of dates with a headlining appearance at Rio De Janeiro's Rock In Rio Festival. Coldplay will head to the U.S., with 11 stadium plays lined up through mid-June, including Washington DC's FedEx Field (June 1) and Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field (June 8). Along with the tour announcement, Coldplay detailed several initiatives to make the tour "as environmentally beneficial as possible," including plans to cut direct emissions by 50% compared to the band's previous tour – and powering the show "entirely by renewable, super-low emission energy." Other aspects of Coldplay's sustainable touring plan include planting one tree for every ticket sold. H.E.R. will open all dates.

Henry Rollins, who was once best known as the frontman for hardcore punk Black Flag, has unveiled the routing for his next spoken word trek he's dubbed the "Good To See You" tour. The tour will feature Rollins recounting "the events of his life in the brief pre-COVID period since the last tour and when things got even stranger over the last several months. It's been an interesting time to say the least and he's got some great stories to tell." Henry Rollins will play 122 shows in the span of 5 months, including 3/27/22 Glenside, PA Keswick Theatre and 3/28/22 Annapolis, MD Rams Head On Stage

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Teenage Bottlerocket *photo by Eric*

The Red Hot Chili Peppers will stage a proper stadium run for the first time in its career in 2022. The tour, which so far consists of European and North American legs, will be the Peppers' first since 2017. In July, the band begins the North American portion of its 2022 tour in Denver. RHCP will visit the East Coast in September at Philadelphia's Citizens Bank Park (9/3) and Washington DC's National Park (9/8) with special guests The Strokes and Thundercat. A press release read, "They have no interest in resting on past accolades, awards or commercial success, this is a mission, they intend to channel the most mighty spirits, and give everything they've got."

New York dance-punk outfit LCD Soundsystem announced its first shows – all at the Brooklyn club Brooklyn Steel – in more than three years. From November 23 to December 21, LCD Soundsystem will play 20 shows at Brooklyn Steel, launching another residency at the venue where they opened with a five-night residency in 2017. Following its five-year hiatus – originally billed as a breakup in 2011 – LCD Soundsystem toured relentlessly from 2016 to 2018. LCD Soundsystem's "final" concert, held at New York's Madison Square Garden in April 2011, spawned a documentary ("Shut Up And Play The Hits") and a live album (The Long Goodbye).

In 2015, hip hop group Wu-Tang Clan created their seventh studio album, Once Upon a Time in Shaolin, and limited it to a single copy and became the most expensive work of music ever sold. The album was recorded in secret over six years. Bought by American CEO Martin Shkreli, who paid $2 million. In 2018, Shkreli, was convicted of securities fraud and federal courts seized assets belonging to him worth $7.36 million, including the album. The US Department of Justice sold it this month to PleasrDAO (non-fungible token collectors) for $4 million. PleasrDAO said they hope to make it more widely accessible at listening parties or exhibitions but are bound by law restrictions forbidding its release to the general public.

UPCOMING SHOWS: Cheap Trick - Reading Santander Arts Center Nov 2. The Hooters - Harrisburg XL Live Nov 4. Psychedelic Furs - York Appell Center Nov 5. Jet Silver - Mechanicsburg Metropolis Nov 6. Buckcherry - Harrisburg XL Live Nov 9. Houndmouth - Harrisburg HMAC Nov 13. Bob Dylan - Hershey Theater Nov 16. Del McCoury - Ardmore Music Hall Nov 18. Tommy Conwell & Young Rumblers - Ardmore Music Hall Nov 20. Jeffrey Gaines - Millersville Phantom Power Nov 21. Inhaler - NYC Mercury Lounge Nov 26. Lunachicks / Toilet Boys - NYC Webster Hall Nov 27.

The Evolution of an Artist – Rap Metal to a Country Music Grammy Nominee

By Rachel Rocks

John Kerecz, who is better known throughout the local music community as "Crazy John," has been on the scene since the early 2000s. When he first started out in the music community, he hosted some open mics and eventually became part of the OSH Radio (Old Schoolhouse Radio), which is an online music platform where he would play and promote original music. John would also go out and support local music, and really started to get to know the artists in the area.

When 7th Layer was evolving, they decided to form more of a full band, Mal H-Vock knew John played bass and asked him to join the band. 7th Layer played shows everywhere they possibly could locally and even up and down the East Coast and beyond. They played over 500 shows at over 130 different venues! One of their annual shows they used to play in Illinois was the Gathering of Juggalos. It was an awesome festival with over 29,000 people in attendance. It was a highlight of their career that they looked forward to playing every year.

Even though John enjoyed his time performing with 7th Layer, he always considered himself a minimalistic musician or "Grinder Monkey". He might not have been the best player, but he was great at helping to promote the band, and he helped get them bookings every chance he got. He also helped 7th Layer get their deal with Island Palm Record Label, which unfortunately didn't work out, but at least they had that opportunity. After 7th Layer played their 10 Year Reunion "Never Again Tour" at HMAC, John knew it was time to move on.

He continued to interview bands and promote music through OSH Radio. He eventually wound up buying the online radio station which he still owns today. It hasn't been updated in a while, but he hopes to get motivated enough to get it updated soon, so keep an eye out for the resurrection of OSH Radio! There is still a lot of great content on the website: videos, podcasts, on demand music, etc. Music history preserved.

As if a radio station wasn't enough, John also started his own music magazine called the Ragazine, where he also promoted local music. Eventually he stopped doing his own and just contributed to all of the existing magazine like ours, The PA Musician Magazine, Shinbone, Hbg Online, B Magazine, and anywhere else he possibly could. John never really cared about competing with the other publications, he just wanted to promote music however he possibly could.

When he wasn't busy promoting music, he also traveled the world and beyond! He studied at the Shaolin Temple Yunnan, went Shark Cage Diving, camped at the Base Camp of Mt. Everest, and he even traveled into Space! Of course, all of these experiences gave him plenty of material to help fuel his new endeavor of putting his adventure in writing. John has written not only lots of songs, but also books and screenplays.

Thanks to the Millennium Music Conference John had the opportunity to meet Joey Welz from Canadian American Music Records. He let Joey hear some of his songs, and their songwriting relationship was born. John writes the lyrics and sends them to Joey to be mixed and mastered into the finished product. John and Joey have had 4 songs in the Top 20 on The Orchard's charts. The Orchard is an American music and entertainment company, specializing in media distributing, marketing, and sales. It is a subsidiary of Sony Music. Their song "I'm a Traveling Man" has been floating in 3rd-5th place, "Mr. Money" made it up to 4th place. Their album "Two Heads are Better than One" has also been in the Top 20 on the Country Music Charts. One of his latest songs, "My Piece of Mind" just got nominated for a Grammy in the Country Music category. John is still shocked when he even thinks about it. He's been grinding away for so many years all throughout the music scene, to finally get an honor like this, is something he won't ever forget. He had a few friends like Larry Gatlin and Bruce Kulick congratulate him for his nomination on Youtube. John has also co wrote a song called "Blues Man" with Kevin Gray.

John is happy that his life has circled back to the simple life. He loves sitting down and playing his 3-string, cigar box, guitar. He's played at a few private gigs, but is loving life and writing as much, and as often as he likes. You never know where life's journey is going to take you, but one thing for sure is, it's important to enjoy the ride!

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RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

How is it November already? By the time this hits print October is over, November is here...that means Turkey, Deer season, winter, etc. I'm looking forward to all of those, with maybe one exception LOL. Outdoor music is about done for the season, but there's lots of great indoor venues for getting your live music fix any night of the week. If you love live music (and why are you reading this if you don't?), please get out there and support the venues and musicians bringing us what we love. Be kind to those that are working...there aren't enough of them, we all know this. But the ones that are there are busting their butts to give us great places to see all this great live music that this area has.

On to the music! My first trip out was to HMAC. I can't say enough about this venue, and all the work that Chris and his employees do continuously to bring Harrisburg a very wide variety of music and entertainment. If you can't find something on their events page that appeals to you, you might want to check your pulse :) This particular evening was a night of metal in the Capitol Room. Starting out the evening was Maryland based heavy/thrash metal band Offensive. I only caught a few songs of their set, but their fast and heavy riffs came out and got the crowd warmed up quickly for the upcoming bands.

Next up was LA Based Stitched Up Heart. Lead singer Alecia "Mixi" Demner came on stage with an incredibly powerful voice, backed by a band with tight metal/pop sound to it. They had a great sound to them from beginning to end. With 2 albums, 3 EP's, and several released singles, this is a band that's definitely worth checking out!

Third on the bill for the evening was a Nu-Metal band out of Moldova called Infected Rain. Yes...I had to look up Moldova to see where it is (Eastern Europe btw!) LOL. This band brought an amazing energy to the stage, led by Lena's haunting and melodic voice went from singing beautiful lyrics to raging, emotional screams that brought the house down. Lena and the band have been together since 2008 and it really showed in their incredible performance.

Headlining the show for the evening was Butcher Babies, an LA based heavy metal band with not one, but two beautiful woman leading the band on stage. Calling them just "heavy metal" really doesn't do them justice though as they create a masterful blend of styles including metal, punk and rock that mesmerized the crowd. They were loud, they were aggressive, and had the energy of a small nuclear power plant. They clearly have a huge following based on all the shirts of theirs that I saw in the crowd, and I have

Black top Mojo

The Billy Joel Experience

to add that I think this was the most crowded photo-pit I've ever been in as well. They bring a show to the stage that I think any metal-head would enjoy.

My next trip out was at the invite of my friends in the band Honeypump. They were playing a private event at an undisclosed location, and asked me to join them. Who am I to refuse such an invite? This is my second time catching a show of theirs, and I have to say, it was even better this time. These folks are an awesome party band. Not only do they do incredible covers, but they dig deep and cover songs that I rarely hear other bands play. Covering songs such as Saturday Night, Sail Away, 25 or 6 to 4, Tom Sawyer, and even Another Brick In The Wall. It was a great evening of music that brought back a lot of nice memories.

The following day I got to head just a few miles away to see our very own Rachel Rocks in her debut stage performance with her Ukulele, joined by Matthew Bynum on Guitar. Playing songs like Wagon Wheel, Country Roads, as well as a song or two written by her dad who was her inspiration to begin learning to play and perform with the ukulele. Rachel did a great job performing for all of her friends and family that came out to support her first show!

I then went up to visit my friends at Isle of Que brewing (have I mentioned the Animal 54 yet? I think I might have...) and catch Civil Fly playing a set. Mike, from Que Brew, has been putting these guys in my ear for a while now and the stars finally aligned to allow us to catch them. This accoustic trio played an incredible set of covers ranging from Interstate Love Son, to All for You, Time by Hootie & The Blowfish, and a number of other great songs. Their playing was tight, the harmonies were beautiful... these guys just put on a great show. I highly recommend you get out and see them if you ever get the chance, I assure you that you won't be disappointed.

A few days later, I ventured up to Spyglass for the beginning of their Hot Air Balloon Festival and featuring The Billy Joel Experience, a Billy Joel tribute band. I'd like to take a moment to congratulate Thomas Webb and the rest of the incredible staff at Spyglass for their win in court earlier in the day in a case that was honestly just ridiculous. I won't go in to detail here as that's not the point of my article...but I'll leave with this: Good people, and a love for music and people, won out the day. I'd never been to a Hot Air Balloon event before, and it was every bit as cool as I thought it'd be. Following a tethered balloon launch, and a 9 balloon "glow up", The Billy Joel Experience took the stage and did an awesome job of performing a tribute to Billy Joel's music. Covering Allentown, Moving Out, Italian Restaurant, New York State of Mind, and finishing the evening with my personal favorite "Piano Man", these guys did an awesome job recreating a Billy Joel performance which I enjoyed every single minute of.

My final trip out for the month was for a show that I've been forward to for quite a while. A friend of mine introduced me to the headlining act Blacktop Mojo probably 3 or 4 years ago I think? She actually made the 3 ½ hour trip up from southern Maryland just to catch this show. I can honestly say it was totally worth it. Prior to the show, I was invited down to the basement to join Jay Hunter from IRockRadio.me (if you aren't familiar with Jay or IRock, check them out!) to photograph an interview he was doing with Blacktop Mojo lead man, Matt James. This was an absolute blast, and Matt was a very down to earth and genuine individual. It was great meeting him. Opening up the show was a band that I wasn't familiar with: Time's Infinity is a Philly based band led by Jaisen Taylor, an 18 year old young man that, it turns out, has an incredible voice! I spot to Jaisen before the show about a few things, including where my personal tastes lie in my music choices. Jaisen wouldn't specify their genre, other than to say it

Honey Pump

was an alt rock style with some punk, blues and funk fused in with it...and he guaranteed that I would enjoy the show. Honestly...that turned out to be an understatement. These guys came out and absolutely crushed it, blowing away the entire crowd that couldn't wait to see the headliner. Playing a pair of covers, and 3 originals of their own including "Message From Paradise", these guys owned the stage from opening note until the last. I can't wait to see what these guys bring to the stage in the future. Remember their name...I do believe you'll be hearing it again. Laying out an awesome setlist, they started off their show with Wicked Woman, followed by Lay It On Me and 11 or 12 other songs, finishing with my favorite of their originals, "Where The Wind Blows". Matt had mentioned during his interview that they like to have a "Campfire" moment with the crowd and fans...coming out into the middle of the crowd, sitting down on the floor with an acoustic guitar, and playing a song with the crowd. Tonight's song choice was Phil Collins' "In The Air Tonight", which is incidentally the song that I was introduced to them with. The love and emotion within these musicians, and the crowd surrounding them was...surreal. It was absolutely a highlight musical moment for me that I will cherish for a long time. If you don't know who these guys are, aren't familiar with their music...I can't say it enough: CHECK THEM OUT! Youtube, Spotify, Facebook, whatever...there's a lot out there, and it's ALL worth hearing.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see, make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

According to reliable local television meteorologist Joe Murgo, colder air arrives as this issue of PA Musician hits the streets, and some parts of PA will see snowflakes by the end of November's first week. Thus, the curtain draws shut on live music's outdoor season for this year.

Fall festivals and other outdoor events provided some memorable live music highlights during the outdoor season's homestretch run…One of those events was the inaugural E-Train Music Festival, which happened in late September at Cherry Runn Lodge near Homer City. Ten western PA-based performing acts – three solo artists and seven bands – joined forces and donated their talents to raise funds for the New Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department. The acoustic portion of the day started off strong with singer, songwriter and troubadour Alyssa Hankey. Armed with her sketch art-adorned acoustic guitar and harmonica, Alyssa introduced a number of new folk and blues-rooted original songs that will be on her soon-to-be-released new album. She brought songs such as "Darkness Coming Down," the rust belt-inspired "They Used to Make Things Here," "Wild One" and others to life with her hearty, gutsy vocal delivery and cadence. She also gave her own flavor to Bruce Springsteen's "Something in the Night." Next was country artist Tim Schmider; displaying an easygoing persona and sturdy voice, he sang classic country favorites from Randy Travis, Charlie Daniels, Jamey Johnson, Steve Earle, Johnny Cash and more. He also introduced one of his original songs, "That's When I Found You." Following Tim was Pittsburgh-based singer and songwriter Brian Genovesi, who performed a selection of his original songs, along with a version of Blackstreet's "No Diggity." Commencing the band portion of the day, Cambria County's Fuse lit the fuse on the live rock, doing numbers from Thin Lizzy, Eddie Money, Huey Lewis & the News, Ozzy Osbourne, Foreigner, CCR and more. Pittsburgh's Luke Weltz Band then introduced their melody-rooted original rock as they performed a number of original songs. Luke sings, plays bass and keys, flanked by lead guitarist Joey Connor, rhythm guitarist Anthony Farine, drummer Sean Rugh and Brandie Servello on tambourine, bass and backing vocals. Their songs merged elements of rock, folk and soul, and often developed into feisty grooves. Some of their numbers included "Paint It Blue," "Nowhere to Go," "Not That Bad" and "Turn It Around"; they also did a version of Tom Petty's "Mary Jane's Last Dance." Following a greeting from PA State Representative Jim Struzzi (himself a musician, he fronted Pittsburgh heavy metal band Genghis Khan in the 1980s and 90s), Crawdad Joe took the stage to perform their grooving blend of swamp rock, blues and soul. Group namesake (and E-Train organizer) "Crawdad Joe" Dedon on lead vocals and guitar, Chris Volpe on keys and trumpet, Mark Randall on bass and Scott Wilson on drums triggered lawn dancing with their mix of original songs and covers, all delivered with a festive Louisiana-toned vibe. Crawdad Joe's original tunes included "Dreamland," "Wings" and "Full of It," and they applied their swamp-rock style to numbers from Bill Withers, Buffalo Springfield, Doobie Brothers, The Band and more. A brief and unexpected downpour drenched the grounds before the day's next group, Greensburg-based power trio the Alec Henderson Band, took the stage. Led by namesake Alec's dynamic vocals and stinging guitar work, the group mixed original songs with numbers by the Doors (they opened with "Riders on the Storm" in deference to the weather that preceded them), Eric Clapton, Elton John and more. Blues then took the spotlight as Pittsburgh's Curtis and the Shakerz delivered their blues and boogie party. Singer and namesake Curtis Franciscus fronted the group with his potent and soulful voice, accompanied by guitarist Kevin McCarthy, sax player John Voetly, drummer Bob Fetherlin and bassist Phil Vento. Displaying stellar musicianship, Curtis and the Shakerz lit up the stage with their feisty takes on tunes from Albert Collins, Robert Cray, Stevie Ray Vaughan, the Temptations and others, plus their own smoking originals like "Boogie Train," "Start All Over" and their ode to first responders, "Standing on the Blue Line." Next was Pittsburgh's Black Ridge with their high-energy set – six members strong, Black Ridge mixed spirited original tunes with a variety of covers spanning Led Zeppelin, Spencer Davis Group, Sam & Dave, Mountain and more. Singer Paul Guerrini brought feverish energy and charisma up front, lifting each song into an action-packed adventure – including his intense rant during the original song "Blue Collar Blues," handing percussion instruments to audience members during Spencer Davis' "Gimme Some Lovin'" and more. Closing out the festival was Allman Brothers tribute group An Evening With… Tony Mollick and Matt Baranti on guitars, "Crawdad Joe" Dedon on bass, T-Bird on keys, and David Blake and Dave Resto on drums and percussion celebrated the Allman Brothers with inspired and reverent treatments of songs from throughout the group's catalog. An Evening With… performed Allman Brothers favorites such as "Statesboro Blues," "You Don't Love Me," "Blue Sky," "Midnight

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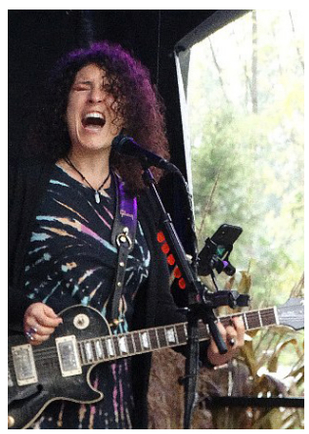
Jenn Henry-Dashem of Anchor & Arrow

Kevin Kutz



Hanna Barakat

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Rider," "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed," "Soulshine" and "One Way Out." They also dug deeper into the Allmans catalog for rousing versions of "Don't Keep Me Wondering," "Woman Across the River" and "Ain't My Cross to Bear." This group displayed excellent musicianship, and both Tony and Joe delivered heart and soul on the singing front. When the audience called for an encore, An Evening With… finished the night off with "Ain't Wastin' Time No More."

Delgrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton closed out its 2021 season with the annual HarvestFest celebration during the last weekend in September. Providing live musical entertainment at this year's event was Nashville-based family group Rockland Road, who had performed here three years ago under their previous name, the Martin Family Circus. Country music royalty informs this group; singer and guitarist Paul Martin previously fronted country-pop hitmakers Exile, and his wife, Jamie, is a daughter of Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys. Their children, sons March and Kell, and daughters Texas and Tallant, all sing and play multiple instruments. Rockland Road played a blend of popular classic rock, country, soul, gospel and original songs, displaying strong vocals, harmonies, instrumental skills and versatility along the way. They also shared stories about their adventures as a band and a family. They celebrated the Oak Ridge Boys with renditions of "Come On In" and "Elvira," and broke out numbers from the Cornelius Brothers & Sister Rose, Little River Band, Journey, Tom Petty, Stephen Stills and others. Some of their highlights included bringing audience members onstage to dance and groove during their version of Prince's "Kiss," their reverent treatment of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A.," and their current hit "Feels Like This."

After missing 2020 due to COVID-19, the annual AmeriServ Flood City Music Festival returned early last month to People's Natural Gas Park near downtown Johnstown. The festival featured a variety of national, regional and local performers on three stages over its two-day duration. I caught much of the festival's first day, Friday; arriving as the West Philadelphia Orchestra performed. Eleven members strong including eight brass/woodwind players and three percussionists, this orchestra mixed elements of Eastern European and Balkan music, jazz and punk into a lively, danceable presentation. Their various instrumental numbers frequently spotlighted individual orchestra members and sparked dancing from audience members. The group offered their renditions of traditional Balkan numbers plus their own original compositions. I next caught the first half of the Jukehouse Bombers' performance, as the group delivered hard-hitting blues and blues-rock. The group introduced a number of new songs from their forthcoming album, and also did select covers from Molly Hatchet, the Allman Brothers and more. I then saw the latter half of Maggie Rose's performance. Backed by members of the group Them Vibes, Maggie displayed an incredible voice as she and band combined rock, blues and soul flavors on a variety of original numbers. Part of Them Vibes this night, former NBC "The Voice" contestant Dylan Hartigan played hand percussion and also sang his song "Crazy" with Maggie during the performance. Next was Johnstown's Flower-Child, who stirred up their own jam-based party with an emphasis on the Grateful Dead. Singer and guitarist Dave Distefano, bassist and singer Brad Rhea, keyboardist Joshua Ben and drummer Scotty Mina performed multiple Dead classics, including "Hell in a Bucket," "Ramble On Rose," "Alabama Getaway," "Franklin's Tower," "Shakedown Street," and even tackled the expansive "Terrapin Station." I then caught the latter portion of Uprooted's set. The current solo project of Rusted Root's Michael Glabicki, Uprooted took the audience through a journey that – like Rusted Root – blended elements of jam music, worldbeat, folk and more. Six members strong this night, the group introduced their own original songs, plus mixed in classics from Rusted Root's catalog. Highlights I witnessed included the crowd sing-along version of Rusted Root's hit "Send Me on My Way" to close the main set, and – for the encore – both of the group's percussionists matching beats and wits on a 15-minute-plus percussion adventure, followed by "Ecstasy," which received an ecstatic response from the crowd. The night ended with a stunning performance by Roosevelt Collier and his band. Based near Miami, Roosevelt specializes in steel guitar, and dropped jaws to the floor this night with his skills on both pedal and lap steel guitar; taking both instruments on scorching, full-shredding adventures! He and his group cranked out high-powered instrumental funk, blues and soul, riding each number to intense crescendos as they performed their mostly original set. Highlights were constant, including the dazzling musicianship, the group's stormy read of the Allman Brothers' "Hot 'Lanta," and a guest appearance by Maggie Rose plus Them Vibes keyboardist Kaitlyn Connor, who both traded vocalizations with Roosevelt's steel licks on an all-out blues jam.

A Mini Music Fest was added to this year's Outdoor Adventure Expo presented by Downtown Bellefonte Inc., which took place early last month at Bellefonte's Talleyrand Park. I saw the middle two bands of the scheduled four-band bill. Altoona-based bluegrass favorites Mama Corn were under way as I first arrived. The jovial cast of guitarist Bruce Forr, banjo player Jeremy Nelson, stand-up bass player Bryan Homan and dobro/harmonica player Johnny Stevens performed selections from their original song catalog, along with their folksy takes on select covers. They paid homage to Jeremy's father, Ben, by performing his song creation "Shenandoah Mountaintops." They also did

continued on next page..

Dave Wilson of This Indecision

Jaret Reddick of Bowling For Soup at HMAC

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The Professor continued...

original song favorites such as the Bruce-led "Someday Knock on Wood," Bryan's "In the High Rise" and Johnny's "Another Couple Days." Among their covers were Jerry Lieber & Artie Butler's "Down Home Girl," Manfred Mann's "Fox on the Run," the traditional "Keep on the Sunny Side," Flatt & Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" (where Johnny declared that the group "… flattened those Scruggs right out there") and the traditional "And We Bid You Goodnight" to end the set. Mama Corn's vocals and harmonies were in top form, and the group delivered their folk and bluegrass mix with groove and swagger. Next was State College's Cone Of Silence, specializing in epic music of the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Lead singer and guitarist Steve Christensen, keyboardist and singer Liz Grove, bassist and singer James Miller, and drummer and singer John Lynch tackled progressive rock epics from Kansas, Yes and Pink Floyd, the intricate jazz-rock stylings of Steely Dan, plus numbers from the Beatles, Sting and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. Cone Of Silence constantly dazzled with their detailed musicianship and crisp three-part harmonies. Highlights were numerous, including their opening rendition of Kansas' "Song for America," the Steely Dan double-shot of "Golden Earrings" and "Aja," and their sharp execution of Yes' "Yours Is No Disgrace," which even prompted dancing by a couple of passing youngsters. An arriving steady rain shortly after Cone Of Silence's performance chased me and much of the crowd away; other scheduled performers this day included the Triple A Blues Band (who kicked off the music before I arrived) and Tommy Wareham & the Intrigues (who were slated to finish the day's music).

Texas Martin of Rockland Road

After being cancelled last year due to COVID-19, the annual three-day Fort Ligonier Days festival returned to downtown Ligonier last month. I attended on the festival's middle day, Saturday, and witnessed entertainment on the central gazebo stage. Performing as I arrived was Pittsburgh-based country performers the Part Time Cowboys. Six members strong, this group sounded strong on their selection of country favorites and other numbers; including songs by Hank Williams, Jr., Brooks & Dunn, Ricky Skaggs, George Strait, plus a version of the Surfaris' "Wipe Out" to test the talents of drummer Andrew Hresko. Wrapping up the afternoon's music was the Derek Woods Band. Derek on lead vocals and acoustic guitar, saxophonist Joe Scheller, bassist Chris Schaney and drummer Chris Belin mixed their Americana-geared original songs with a variety of classic rock, folk and hit favorites. The group showcased a number of songs off their new full-length album "Picture Yourself," including "Don't Look Away," "Up in the Air," "Happiness" and others, and did established original numbers such as their award-winning song "Unforgiving Tree." They also infused their own flavor into numbers from Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Bob Marley, the Rascals, Grateful Dead, Rolling Stones and others. A Ligonier native, Derek engaged the audience with his clear voice and friendly personality, and Joe provided constant highlights with his vibrant saxophone displays throughout the performance. The Derek Woods Band inspired dancing around the gazebo as their set progressed.

Also returning last month after missing 2020 was the two-weekend Bedford Fall Foliage Festival in downtown Bedford. I caught most of the musical entertainment on both stages during the festival's final day (Sunday, Oct. 10), rising early to arrive in time to see Hanna Barakat's two sets on the River Stage. Returning to the area from her home base of Austin, Texas, Hanna and her band – this day Altoona's Lisa Fazenbaker on drums and bassist Jeremy Gallegos – showcased the music from her "Siren" album, performing the album in its entirety during their latter set. Hanna demonstrated her hearty and soaring voice, and gave insight behind each of the songs. Hanna's music blended hard modern rock flavors with pop elements and a Middle Eastern edge, and some of her songs are inspired by the harsh realities of the Middle East. "Cycle," featuring a spoken word passage by Hanna's Lebanese father, addresses the endless cycle of violence in that part of the world, and offers hope for a day when that violence can come to an end. Hanna and her group also introduced a brand new song called "Dangerous Game." (I also caught Hanna's show the following weekend at McGarvey's, a double-bill with the PennSoulvanians. Joining Hanna and her band that night was the PennSoulvanians' Lyndsay Reilly on saxophone, giving a jazzier edge to Hanna's song material.) Following Hanna's performance, I caught part of the strolling performer set by hometown singer and songwriter Jackson Monsour, joined by Kevin Kutz on fiddle, Jackson and Kevin performed a number of Jackson's original songs plus a few select covers – including the ever-popular "Wagon Wheel," plus an original tune, "Find Me a Rocking Chair," that veered off into a hip-hop medley. I then headed to the Gazebo Stage to witness part of the set by south-central PA blues quartet Twisted Bluez. This group mixed original songs with select covers; I got to observe their version of the Beatles' "Come Together," their original tune "I Play the Blues, and the Blues Plays Me," and more. After their set, popular strolling performers The A Cappella Kinda Guys showed up to entertain, displaying their pleasant vocals and harmonies, mixed with their sense of humor – I thoroughly enjoyed their tongue-in-cheek ode "Cows with Guns." Then taking the Gazebo Stage for their annual Fall Foliage Festival appearance were Chuck Blasko and 1960s hitmakers The Vogues. Founding member Chuck, plus singers Shawn Moran and Jimmy Scott, provided crisp three-part harmonies as they did Vogues favorites and other classic doo-wop and early rock'n'roll hits. During their first of two sets, Chuck and the Vogues did such hits as the set-opening "5 O'Clock World," "Magic Town," "My Special Angel" (dedicated to a loyal fan, Wendy, who the group brought up and serenaded on the stage) and "You're the One." They also did a Four Seasons medley, plus a special hit medley that the group sang while having pictures taken with audience members. I then returned to the River Stage for the last portion of Josh Squared's performance. Based in Reading, Josh

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Lyndsay Reilly of The Pennsoulvanians

Bruce Forr of Mama Corn

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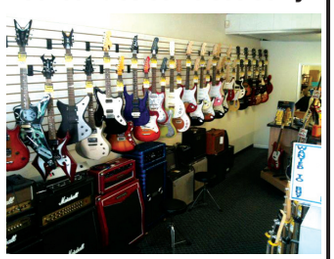

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Squared performed a variety of hits spanning the 1970s to present; including numbers from Huey Lewis & the News, Bon Jovi, the Four Seasons, Redbone, Walk The Moon, Journey and more.

I caught a few indoor performances recently as well, including a roadtrip to the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC) in late September to see Bowling For Soup in concert. Recently appearing on PA Musician's August cover, State College's August Winters opened the show. I arrived in time to see their last few songs; lead singer, guitarist and group brainchild Drew Zimmerman rallied the large HMAC crowd as he and August Winters did rocking numbers from their new album "The Lion, the Reaper" along with a version of Good Charlotte's "The Anthem." Drew and his bandmates kept the musical action uptempo and constant. Next up was northeastern PA's Don't Panic. Four members strong, this group delivered high-powered, punk-infused rock'n'roll, showcasing selections from their two albums, "See Through It All" and "Dark Horse." Some of their numbers included "Watership Down," "Final Thread," "No Time for Second Chances," "Fall of '99" and more. Touring the southern U.S. this past month, Don't Panic heads to England for several tour dates in December. Headliners Bowling For Soup mixed their brand of punk-fueled hard rock with a sense of humor. Lead singer and guitarist Jaret Reddick opened their set with a near monologue, explaining that he was hung over, and that if he threw up on any audience members up front, that he had his COVID shots. This set the tone for the group's crazy set, as they performed songs from throughout their catalog and joked around with the audience between songs. Opening with "Almost," Bowling For Soup – Jaret, guitarist Chris Burney, bassist Rob Felicetti and drummer Gary Wiseman – fired through many of their best-known anthems, including such numbers as "Trucker Hat," "Ohio (Come Back to Texas)," "Today Is Gonna Be a Great Day" (their theme song for Disney's cartoon series "Phineas and Ferb"), their ode to WWE star "Alexa Bliss," "High School Never Ends," "The Last Rock Show," "Shut Up and Smile," and their set-ending hit "Girl All the Bad Guys Want." When the HMAC crowd demanded an encore, Bowling For Soup quickly returned and finished the night with "Since We Broke Up" and their popular number "1985." Bowling For Soup never took themselves too seriously, rocking for broke and having fun with the audience, and delivering a free-wheeling, fun set.

Derek Woods of The Derek Woods Band

During my first visit to one of Johnstown's newer live music venues, the Freight Station, I caught my first look at Pittsburgh-based rockers This Indecision. Six members strong, this group did excellent work on a variety of classic-rocking numbers from the 1970s and 80s. This Indecision features several strong singers – guitarist Dave Wilson handles the lion's share of lead singing duties, while keyboardist Tony Walsh, guitarist Bob Rojtas and bassist Eric Wilson also display good singing voices as well. Completing the group's roster are guitarist Mark Kapsha and drummer Mike Matesic. This Indecision did a wide swath of rocking classics, including numerous songs not often heard on stages such as Styx's "Crystal Ball," Bad Company's title song, The Who's "Getting in Tune," "Who Are You" and "Love Reign O'er Me," REO Speedwagon's "Roll With the Changes," Deep Purple's "Perfect Strangers" and many more. This Indecision's vocals and harmonies are stellar, and their instrumental execution is tight and powerful. This Indecision succeeded in pulling folks up to the dance floor in increasing numbers as the night progressed. This Indecision is expanding their turf throughout western PA, watch for them in your town soon!

And I caught my first look at State College-based duo Anchor & Arrow last month when they made their Hollidaysburg debut at the Argonne Café. Comprised of the husband-and-wife tandem of Matt Dashem on guitar and Jenn Henry-Dashem on lead vocals, Anchor & Arrow entertained with their distinctive takes on a variety of hits and favorites from the 1960s through 80s. Anchor & Arrow made their cover selection their own, infusing their own flavor into numbers like Don Henley's "Dirty Laundry," Greg Kihn Band's "Jeopardy," Blondie's "The Tide Is High," Cliff Richard's "Devil Woman," Hall & Oates' "Maneater" and many more. The pair also like to merge songs together; doing so this night with their funky take on "House of the Rising Sun" into Dolly Parton's "Jolene," Hall & Oates' "I Can't Go for That" into Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall," Stevie Wonder's "I Wish" into the Guess Who's "American Woman" and more. Anchor & Arrow performed all of it with constant smiles and pleasant personalities, and it was easy to see why this duo stay busy on regional stages. Watch for their return visit to the Argonne Café soon!

News and notes…Again cancelled for this year due to COVID-19 concerns, the Patched Together concert benefit for Home Nursing Agency's Healing Patch program takes place online on Nov. 18, and will feature performances from The Jaded Lips, The PennSoulvanians and Chris Vipond & the Stanley Street Band…Due to unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances within the band, renowned Altoona rock band The Front has cancelled their farewell performance scheduled for Nov. 6 at The Casino at Lakemont Park…Resurfacing after a 10-year hiatus, Altoona's Infused will release a new full-length album, "Audio Epiphany," shortly…Pittsburgh's The Semi-Supervillains release their new album, "Play That Rock'n'Roll," in January…The regional music scene was saddened by the passing of several musicians and friends in recent weeks – Pete Sheridan, one of the founding members and original harmonica player of State College's Triple A Blues Band, passed in mid-September…Oscar "Oz" Christ passed away on Sept. 26 at age 48; a prominent drummer from the Lancaster area, Oz performed live with numerous bands and projects, and recorded music with many as well…Walter Wright, the frontman for Pittsburgh heavy metal rockers Skell and former singer for western PA's (kaj), passed after battling illness on Oct. 19 at age 43…and John "Jack" Fitzpatrick, a longtime musician from Cambria County, passed away after a battle with cancer on Oct. 20 at age 75; he sang and played guitar with groups such as the Country Gentlemen and Crossfire. We at PA Musician express our condolences with the families and friends of all of these musicians.

Roosevelt Collier

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. Happy Thanksgiving, and continue to SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

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PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

TED McCLOSKEY – *THE LOST SEASON SESSIONS VOL. 4: LET IT BURN* (no label) A refresher: When last year's COVID-19 shutdown silenced his live music livelihood, State College's Ted McCloskey began to channel his frustrations over the ordeal into song creations, resulting in The Lost Season Sessions album series. Ted's concept was to release a new album for every season that he wasn't performing live. As society and live music began to re-emerge this past summer, Ted issued the fourth and final installment of the series, Let It Burn. Through the album's 10 tracks, Ted again shares his perceptions and observations, this time about the struggles of getting back up to full speed, both personal and societal. He does so over a musical tapestry of rock and roots rock, blues, soul, folk, and even some Fab Four-flavored flourishes. Ted opens the blinds to a world emerging from shutdown and cabin fever on the title track "Let It Burn," which channels a soulful Mick Jagger/Stones-styled vibe. But getting back up to speed toward normalcy is not as easy as it seems on "Mess of Myself," which starts off acoustic-driven but shifts into harder Beatle-esque terrain midway through. A stern-sounding guitar riff fuels "Hardened Tears," as Ted vents about continued indifference to gun-related violence and deaths. "The Poison Tree" makes the analogy that in society as in nature, bad apples stem from deeper problems in the tree; while another nature analogy, the folk-blues-toned "Bindweeds," suggests nurturing flowers as they struggle to rise above a bed of strangling weeds. Ted elevates the vitriol toward misguided uber-patriotism on the hard-hitting "Annie Oakley," and he relates a recent local incident about a bruin to the bigger picture of societal discrimination and ostracism on "Little Black Bear." And the acoustic closer "The Last Longest Mile" finds Ted trying to make up for lost time, but relenting that with no finish line, that race is in vain. Again, Ted masterfully weaves together intriguing melodies and arrangements, various guitar flavors and tones, and clever, sharp-tongued observations and commentary about the COVID ordeal and a troubled society. Each song sounds distinct and stands out on its own, yet the whole set flows coherently as a cohesive whole. With Ted crafting all music, words, production and even the artwork here, The Lost Season Sessions Vol. 4: Let It Burn slams an emphatic exclamation point on his musical soul-searching adventure. As with the previous three Lost Seasons Sessions episodes, this tuneful "Ted Talk" again delivers a set of invigorating, captivating and thought-provoking music, as well as one more musical snapshot of one man's journey during a challenging time period. (The digital album can be obtained through Ted's Bandcamp page.)

CASEY WALTON – *THIS TOWN* (no label) Hailing from Lancaster, singer and songwriter Casey Walton spent three years in Nashville honing her songwriting talents, networking and performing, before returning home in 2016. Her full-length debut album, This Town, introduces Casey's personable style and sound. Country is the prominent flavor here, but Casey also blends in elements of pop and rock as well. The album's 11 tracks compile songs that Casey created while in Nashville, both solo and with collaborators such as Alisha Lynn Sheely, former NBC "The Voice" contestant Anna Catherine Dehart, Emily Hawkins, Robyn Collins and others. Several songs are themed around love, such as the hard-edged country rock opener "Just Fine," the punchy "Next to You," the gentle and rustic "Break My Fall," and "I Got You" (co-written by Saving Jane lead singer Marti Dodson, who also sings backing vocals here). Two contrasting views of small towns are presented; Casey celebrates the benefits of small town living on "Something About a Small Town," but realizes the town is too small when dodging a past love interest on the album's title track "This Town." Other songs deliver positive messages about embracing life and its possibilities, such as "Wishin' For," the country-rocking "Sink or Swim," and the deeper and lengthier album-closer "Go On," about moving forward and accepting change. Casey sings it all with a smooth, bold voice, and her words ring out strong and clear. These tunes are catchy, and the arrangements support each song well. Quality musicianship from multi-instrumentalist and album producer Steven Courtney, plus timely backing vocals from Steven and many of Casey's songwriting collaborators, adds depth and fleshes out the songs. The overall sound of this album is balanced, clean and polished. A pleasant listen; This Town demonstrates Casey Walton's gifts of songcraft and voice, and establishes her as a regional music name well worthy of attention. (The album can be obtained through Casey's website, www.caseywalton.net[/ur]l], or through her Bandcamp page.)

DILEMMA – *OPEN MIND CLOSED MOUTH* (no label) Since forming in 2017, Dilemma has emerged as a rising and exciting band on the Altoona area music scene. Their 9-song debut album, Open Mind Closed Mouth, establishes Dilemma's angle of musical

STRICKEN
"WE ARE A DISTURBED TRIBUTE"

attack as a blend of punk, nu-metal, thrash and metalcore elements. Singer and guitarist Micah Button, singer and bassist Devin Conrad and drummer Joel Kyle devise hard-hitting, busy and varying song arrangements. The songs contain tempo and chord shifts, plus explosive breaks and sudden side journeys, while maintaining intensity and forward motion. The contrasting singing and screaming vocal styles between Micah and Devin power forth lyrical themes of troubled times, conflicting emotions, life's uncertainties and more. Setting the tone, the album's opening track, "Tomorrow," introduces Dilemma's no-holds-barred sound as its words ponder an uncertain future. Devin's bare-bones bass line launches the hard-charging "Fester," about internal anger; while the fast-firing "King I Hate Myself" ponders self identity. Dilemma angrily rails against people who force their agendas and misinformation on the heavy and brooding "Force Fed," and lashes out against phony people on the acoustic-tinged "Plasticity." The high-powered "Manic" explores anxiety and life out of control, while words of determination and resolve close out the album on the acoustic ballad "The Final Nail." Dilemma delivers velocity and intensity throughout the album; their presentation is go-for-broke and visceral, yet they execute their song material tightly with their vocals and harmonies on target. Recorded by Rik Golden at his Golden Studios, the production is sharp and raw, enabling Dilemma's edge and intensity to cut through prominently and clearly. Open Mind Closed Mouth provides a strong opening chapter for Dilemma, as the group brings forth their intriguing song creations with aggression and vigor. (The CD can be obtained at the group's shows.)

ENDBRINGER – *THE VICTIM HAS BEEN CHOSEN* (no label) Forming in the midst of the chaotic year 2020, Clearfield's Endbringer unites alumni of area metal and hardcore bands Final Stand, Forever Means Goodbye, Death Rattle and How It Ends. Following an initial self-titled 3-song EP, Endbringer brings brute-force metalcore fury on their first full-length CD, "The Victim Has Been Chosen." Lead snarler Travis, guitarists Ed and Brad, bassist Kevin and drummer Dave show no mercy here, scorching the earth with intense, bone-jarring firepower over seven scathing assaults. Fierce and explosive rhythms plus caustic chugging guitar riffage serve as the launching pad for Travis' savage bellows, growls and no-holds-barred aggression. The group gets down to business right away on the speed-banging opening track "The Used," displaying Slayer-like velocity while Travis bellows wisdom about withstanding life's hard knocks. The swaggering "Narcissistic Elite" rages against self-worshipping power brokers and condescending attitudes. The pulverizing "Burn the Past" forcefully advances forward while slamming the door on past mistakes. Endbringer rampages against those pointing fingers on "Judgment," and stands proud while denying naysayers on the punishing disc-closer "Less Than Perfect." Endbringer pounds with authority – their instrumental execution sounds ferocious and tight, and Travis vents his vocal rage with clarity and purpose. The production and mix bring out the group's lean, mean rawness and vigor, with sparing and effective uses of soundbytes and cacophony to support the musical maelstrom. Fans of volatile heavy metal and metalcore should savor "The Victim Has Been Chosen," a furious set that establishes Endbringer's brutal musical world with a convincing exclamation point. (The CD and digital album can be obtained through Endbringer's Bandcamp website.)

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